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CURRENT INDUSTRIAL REPORTS

Manufacturers, Shipments, Inventories, and Orders

U.S. Department of Commerce
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

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All figures in text below are in seasonally adjusted current dollars.

Manufacturers' shipments in May were virtually unchanged at $109.6 billion as a $0.5 billion decrease in shipments of nondurable goods offset a $0.4 billion increase in shipments of durable goods, the Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census reported today. Inventories held by both durable and nondurable goods producers showed the largest increases in over 2 years. The inventory rise, 1 percent or $2.1 billion to $172.8 billion for all manufacturing industries, was most pronounced in finished goods ($1.1 billion or 2 percent) and materials and supplies ($0.8 billion or 1 percent). New orders for manufacturered products, virtually unchanged from April at $111.6 billion, exceeded shipments by $2.1 billion and resulted in the ninth consecutive increase in the backlog of orders.

Durable goods shipments rose by $0.4 billion or less than 1 percent to $57.1 billion as increases in steel mill shipments ($0.4 billion or 10 percent) and aircraft and parts ($0.4 billion or 18 percent) offset declines in motor vehicles and parts ($0.2 billion or 2 percent) and fabricated metals ($0.1 billion or 2 percent). New orders for durable goods rose $0.7 billion or 1 percent to $59.4 billion (revised from $59.1 billion). Orders for steel mill products rose $1.4 billion or 36 percent and offset declines in aircraft and parts ($0.8 billion or 19 percent) and motor vehicles ($0.4 billion or 4 percent). Virtually all of the increase in the steel orders is due to seasonal adjustment, which is based on the historical pattern of the industry. Both electrical and nonelectrical machinery orders also rose in May.

Several industries contributed to the $1.0 billion or 1 percent rise in durable goods inventories to $109.2 billion. Electrical and nonelectrical machinery showed a $0.4 billion or 1 percent rise to $39.6 billion with the increase being equally shared between materials and supplies and finished goods. Motor vehicle and parts producers reported a $0.2 billion or 3 percent increase, mostly in materials and supplies. Primary metals producers recorded a $0.2 billion or 1 percent increase to $17.6 billion with over three-fourths of the increase in finished goods.

Nondurable goods shipments declined $0.5 billion or 1 percent to $52.4 billion, the largest in 9 months. Although decreases occurred in several industries, the decline in foods ($0.6 billion or 4 percent) and in chemicals ($0.2 billion or 3 percent) were the major contributors to the overall shipments decline. Since shipments were used as an estimate of new orders in many of the nondurable goods industries, the declines in shipments had a significant impact on the new orders for all manufacturing industries.

Virtually all of the nondurable industries contributed to the $1.0 billion or 1 percent inventory rise to $63.6 billion. Inventories held by food producers were $16.9 billion, $0.3 billion or 2 percent above April and inventories held by petroleum producers rose $0.3 billion or 5 percent to $5.5 billion. Both increases were predominantly in finished goods. The inventories of chemical producers increased $0.2 billion or 1 percent to $13.2 billion with approximately equal increases in all inventory components.

New orders for capital goods declined $0.2 billion or 1 percent to $18.3 billion. Orders for nondefense capital goods were unchanged from April at $14.9 billion, while orders for defense capital goods declined $0.2 billion or 6 percent to $3.4 billion. Shipments of the capital goods industries rose $0.3 billion or 2 percent, mostly in defense, and the backlog of capital goods orders rose $1.2 billion or 1 percent to $113.0 billion.

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The figures on the durable goods industries in this report supersede those issued earlier in the advance report on durable goods. The present report is based on more complete reporting, but the estimates are also considered preliminary. Final figures will appear as historical data in the report to be published for next month. The advance report on durable goods for May is scheduled for release on July 22, 1977 and the full report is scheduled for release on August 2, 1977.

This report contains data on an unadjusted and seasonally adjusted basis. However, the data are not adjusted for price changes. For an explanation of terms used in this report see appendix following table 5.

NOTICE

A supplemental table is included at the end of this report that shows the distribution of inventory accounting methods used for reporting in this survey. A description of the survey used to collect this information is provided in the text preceeding the table.

Address inquiries concerning these figures to U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Industry Division, Washington, D.C. 20233, or call William Manth, (301) 763-2502.

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Table 1.--VALUE OF MANUFACTURERS' SHIPMENTS, INVENTORIES, AND ORDERS, BY INDUSTRY GROUP

(Millions of dollars)

Industry group	Shipments						Total inventories					
	Seasonally adjusted			Without seasonal adjustment[1]			Seasonally adjusted			Without seasonal adjustment[1]		
	May 1977p	Apr. 1977r	Mar. 1977	May 1977p	Apr. 1977r	Mar. 1977	May 1977p	Apr. 1977r	Mar. 1977	May 1977p	Apr. 1977r	Mar. 1977
All manufacturing industries:												
Total	109,473	109,553	111,443	110,726	111,427	114,339	172,809	170,747	169,379	173,274	171,886	170,818
Total, excluding transportation	96,021	96,286	97,036	96,465	97,621	99,566	152,940	151,153	149,951	153,634	152,285	151,188
Total for industries with unfilled orders[2]	56,671	56,156	57,459	57,247	57,131	58,840	114,567	113,355	112,754	115,476	114,366	113,598
Durable goods industries, total	57,094	56,677	59,051	58,722	58,356	60,688	109,226	108,190	107,685	110,002	109,218	108,726
Durable goods with unfilled orders[2]	44,995	44,386	45,923	45,737	45,449	47,163	100,138	99,030	98,591	100,807	99,925	99,398
Stone, clay, and glass products	2,854	2,842	2,989	2,986	2,904	2,943	4,257	4,193	4,142	4,356	4,341	4,260
Primary metals, total	8,427	7,987	8,534	8,666	8,552	8,847	17,567	17,332	17,323	17,598	17,455	17,414
Blast furnaces, steel mills	4,368	3,957	4,266	4,381	4,282	4,539	10,434	10,266	10,232	10,372	10,215	10,191
Nonferrous and other primary metals	3,175	3,177	3,387	3,340	3,358	3,390	6,152	6,088	6,101	6,201	6,209	6,192
Fabricated metal products total	7,246	7,370	7,707	7,391	7,496	7,689	13,408	13,332	13,265	13,626	13,530	13,458
Metal cans, barrels, and drums	656	629	707	666	625	671	1,273	1,305	1,275	1,372	1,383	1,353
Machinery, except electrical, total	10,161	10,120	10,110	10,337	10,485	10,910	24,505	24,476	24,417	24,793	24,816	24,744
Engines and turbines	828	932	913	853	911	1,060	2,109	2,073	2,005	2,108	2,065	2,012
Farm machinery and equipment	934	868	856	990	1,005	1,087	2,355	2,321	2,299	2,409	2,409	2,426
Construction, mining, and material handling equipment	1,867	1,771	1,794	1,891	1,886	1,882	5,328	5,432	5,455	5,397	5,530	5,602
Metalworking machinery	546	565	559	562	560	642	1,637	1,611	1,609	1,642	1,619	1,604
General industrial machinery	877	823	942	897	834	981	2,571	2,548	2,490	2,625	2,601	2,533
Electrical machinery, total	6,578	6,635	6,643	6,493	6,601	6,813	15,090	14,741	14,647	15,339	14,881	14,726
Electrical transmission and distribution equipment and industrial apparatus	1,307	1,283	1,282	1,336	1,308	1,346	3,044	2,996	2,978	3,067	3,030	3,000
Household appliances	827	885	850	849	849	917	1,760	1,710	1,597	1,804	1,715	1,623
Radio and TV	492	442	467	401	379	447	793	805	826	851	805	782
Communication equipment	1,713	1,773	1,826	1,722	1,824	1,856	4,646	4,464	4,414	4,642	4,495	4,498
Transportation equipment, total	13,452	13,267	14,407	14,261	13,806	14,773	19,869	19,594	19,428	19,640	19,601	19,630
Motor vehicles and parts	9,139	9,338	10,126	9,780	9,681	10,360	6,693	6,476	6,548	6,552	6,438	6,587
Aircraft, missiles, and parts	2,930	2,484	2,731	2,925	2,519	2,792	10,351	10,333	10,174	10,269	10,386	10,295
Shipbuilding and military tank vehicles	571	601	641	606	614	639	1,373	1,282	1,218	1,[illegible]54	1,277	1,218
Instruments and related products, total	2,333	2,323	2,344	2,306	2,271	2,372	4,760	4,721	4,728	4,820	4,757	4,721
Scientific and engineering	1,398	1,357	1,367	1,391	1,365	1,402	2,978	2,961	2,958	2,998	2,981	2,973
Photographic goods	748	777	785	740	730	769	1,317	1,280	1,273	1,346	1,298	1,262
All other durable goods industries	6,043	6,133	6,317	6,282	6,241	6,341	9,770	9,801	9,735	9,[illegible]30	9,837	9,773
Nondurable goods industries, total	52,379	52,876	52,392	52,004	53,071	53,651	63,583	62,557	61,694	63,272	2,668	62,092
Nondurable goods with unfilled orders	11,676	11,770	11,536	11,510	11,682	11,677	14,429	14,325	14,163	14,669	14,441	14,200
Food and kindred products, total	15,169	15,778	15,451	14,939	15,429	15,797	16,870	16,530	16,130	16,272	16,274	16,085
Meat products	3,983	3,904	3,809	3,940	3,806	3,798	1,399	1,366	1,308	1,418	1,405	1,343
Fats and oils	1,549	1,574	1,463	1,514	1,570	1,460	2,158	2,087	1,995	2,101	2,163	2,161
Tobacco products	710	728	738	724	696	714	3,571	3,549	3,484	3,475	3,638	3,721
Textile mill products	3,521	3,593	3,503	3,534	3,543	3,659	5,444	5,426	5,368	5,[illegible]87	[illegible],534	5,453
Paper and allied products, total	4,657	4,702	4,579	4,631	4,683	4,647	5,532	5,439	5,352	5,582	5,468	5,350
Pulp, paper, etc.	2,057	2,053	2,020	2,065	2,072	2,040	2,100	2,062	2,047	2,129	2,093	2,071
Paperboard containers	1,086	1,086	1,097	1,094	1,090	1,090	1,466	1,446	1,407	1,467	1,450	1,403
All other paper containers	1,514	1,563	1,462	1,472	1,521	1,517	1,966	1,931	1,898	1,986	1,925	1,876
Chemicals and allied products, total	9,245	9,480	9,682	9,675	10,069	10,218	13,201	13,038	12,962	13,165	13,138	13,204
Industrial chemicals, except pigments	3,[illegible]	3,249	3,217	3,223	3,343	3,374	3,891	3,803	3,752	3,864	3,822	3,798
Drugs, soap, and toiletries	2,150	2,281	2,315	1,991	2,228	2,376	3,917	3,915	3,869	4,000	3,942	3,853
Petroleum and coal products	8,072	7,884	7,660	7,968	7,838	7,597	5,508	5,252	5,156	5,486	5,198	5,012
Rubber and plastics products, n.e.c.	3,057	2,995	3,118	3,081	3,140	3,215	4,096	4,016	4,079	4,120	4,102	4,126
All other nondurable goods industries	7,948	7,716	7,661	7,452	7,673	7,804	9,361	9,307	9,163	9,585	9,316	9,141

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1.--VALUE OF MANUFACTURERS' SHIPMENTS, INVENTORIES, AND ORDERS, BY INDUSTRY GROUP--Continued

(Millions of dollars)

Industry group	New orders						Unfilled orders					
	Seasonally adjusted			Without seasonal adjustment[1]			Seasonally adjusted			Without seasonal adjustment[1]		
	May 1977[p]	Apr. 1977[r]	Mar. 1977	May 1977[p]	Apr. 1977[r]	Mar. 1977	May 1977[p]	Apr. 1977[r]	Mar. 1977	May 1977[p]	Apr. 1977[r]	Mar. 1977
All manufacturing industries:												
Total	111,589	111,625	111,927	110,909	113,402	114,951	182,285	180,168	178,105	180,539	180,356	178,392
Total, excluding transportation	97,352	96,571	97,323	96,897	98,483	100,456	126,980	125,651	125,376	126,919	126,486	125,624
Total for industries with unfilled orders	58,787	58,228	57,943	57,430	59,106	59,452	-	-	-	-	-	-
Durable goods industries, total	59,432	58,730	59,299	59,092	60,172	60,978	174,027	171,690	169,642	171,997	171,627	169,823
Durable gooda with unfilled orders	47,333	46,439	46,171	46,107	47,265	47,453	-	-	-	-	-	-
Primary metals, total	9,198	7,755	8,615	8,697	8,591	9,211	17,661	16,890	17,122	17,853	17,822	17,782
Blast furnaces, steel mills	5,210	3,831	4,304	4,492	4,433	4,797	11,693	10,851	10,977	11,634	11,523	11,372
Nonferrous and other primary metal products	3,058	3,028	3,438	3,236	3,192	3,494	4,797	4,914	5,063	5,051	5,155	5,321
Fabricated metal products	7,337	7,363	7,832	7,437	7,471	7,827	23,583	23,494	23,501	23,339	23,292	23,318
Machinery, except electrical, total	10,180	10,060	9,991	10,306	10,645	10,925	44,254	44,236	44,299	44,364	44,393	44,234
Engines and turbines	801	819	737	686	954	925	16,086	16,113	16,227	16,189	16,355	16,313
Construction, mining, and material handling equipment	1,825	1,643	1,820	1,931	1,714	2,038	6,323	6,366	6,494	6,349	6,308	6,481
Metalworking machinery	653	602	547	660	623	672	3,075	2,968	2,931	3,069	2,971	2,908
General industrial machinery	826	900	837	812	938	869	6,558	6,609	6,532	6,577	6,662	6,558
Electrical machinery, total	7,188	6,973	6,338	6,931	6,852	6,557	24,382	23,772	23,437	23,970	23,531	23,280
Electrical transmission and distribution equipment and industrial apparatus	1,301	1,296	1,321	1,313	1,346	1,370	6,021	6,027	6,015	5,991	6,014	5,975
Household appliances	838	848	836	855	854	914	336	325	313	329	323	318
Radio and TV	511	475	272	434	409	256	397	377	344	381	348	318
Communication equipment	2,216	2,102	1,634	2,020	2,002	1,706	11,525	11,022	10,693	11,157	10,859	10,682
Transportation equipment, total	14,237	15,054	14,604	14,012	14,919	14,495	55,305	54,517	52,729	53,620	53,870	52,768
Aircraft, missiles, and parts	3,366	4,178	2,887	2,671	3,642	2,618	36,824	36,387	34,692	35,571	35,824	34,701
Shipbuilding and military tank vehicles	679	400	459	415	402	482	9,338	9,229	9,430	9,188	9,380	9,592
All other durable goods industries	11,292	11,525	11,919	11,709	11,694	11,963	8,842	8,781	8,554	8,851	8,719	8,441
Nondurable goods industries, total	52,157	52,895	52,628	51,817	53,230	53,973	8,258	8,478	8,463	8,542	8,729	8,569
Industries with unfilled orders	11,454	11,789	11,772	11,323	11,841	11,999	8,258	8,478	8,463	8,542	8,729	8,569
Industries without unfilled orders	40,703	41,106	40,856	40,494	41,389	41,974	-	-	-	-	-	-

- Represents zero. [p]Preliminary. [r]Revised.

[1]Adjusted for trading-day and calendar-month variations.

[2]The inventory data for the categories "All manufacturing industries with unfilled orders" and the "Durable goods industries with unfilled orders" include the automotive assembly data while the respective shipments and new orders figures for these categories omit the automotive assembly data. Separate inventory data are not complied for the automotive assembly and automotive parts since many companiea are only able to provide data on a combined basis. Based on figures from the 1974 Annual Survey of Manufactures, the automotive assembly industry (SIC codes 3711, 3713 and 3715) repreaents 3.7 percent of the "durable goods with unfilled orders" category and 3.2 percent of the "total for industries with unfilled orders" category.

Table 2.--VALUE OF MANUFACTURERS' SHIPMENTS, INVENTORIES, AND ORDERS, FOR MARKET CATEGORIES AND SUPPLEMENTARY SERIES

(Millions of dollars)

Industry group	Seasonally adjusted			Without seasonal adjustment[1]			Seasonally adjusted			Without seasonal adjustment		
	May 1977p	Apr. 1977r	Mar. 1977	May 1977p	Apr. 1977r	Mar. 1977	May 1977p	Apr. 1977r	Mar. 1977	May 1977p	Apr. 1977r	Mar. 1977
	Shipments						Total inventories					
All manufacturing industries, total..	109,473	109,553	111,443	110,726	111,427	114,339	172,809	170,747	169,379	173,274	171,886	170,818
Durable goods industries, total.....	57,094	56,677	59,051	58,722	58,356	60,688	109,226	108,190	107,685	110,002	109,218	108,726
Nondurable goods industries, total.....	52,379	52,876	52,392	52,004	53,071	53,651	63,583	62,557	61,694	63,272	62,668	62,092
Industry groups arranged by market categories:												
Home goods and apparel.....	8,546	8,294	8,398	8,084	8,187	8,752	14,753	14,608	14,296	15,168	14,678	14,309
Consumer staples.....	18,783	19,521	19,323	18,446	19,162	19,615	24,171	23,928	23,531	23,652	23,730	23,551
Equipment and defense products, except automotive.....	15,131	14,797	14,970	15,355	15,219	15,743	39,800	39,638	39,393	40,107	40,095	39,925
Automotive equipment.....	10,963	11,293	12,142	11,715	11,761	12,378	8,854	8,691	8,728	8,732	8,686	8,848
Construction materials, supplies, and intermediate products.....	9,415	9,483	9,795	9,965	9,789	9,662	14,608	14,523	14,560	14,711	14,728	14,760
Other materials and supplies and intermediate products.....	46,635	46,165	46,815	47,161	47,309	48,189	70,623	69,359	68,871	70,904	69,969	69,425
Supplementary series:[2]												
Household durable goods industries.....	3,433	3,373	3,542	3,368	3,323	3,650	7,492	7,407	7,275	7,691	7,467	7,285
Capital goods industries.....	17,065	16,792	17,049	17,233	17,069	17,825	44,709	44,335	43,992	45,004	44,889	44,428
Nondefense.....	14,419	14,321	14,373	14,625	14,583	15,174	38,030	37,733	37,475	38,369	38,259	37,840
Defense*.....	2,646	2,471	2,676	2,608	2,486	2,651	6,679	6,602	6,517	6,635	6,630	6,588
	New orders						Unfilled orders					
All manufacturing industries, total..	111,589	111,625	111,927	110,909	113,402	114,951	182,285	180,168	178,105	180,539	180,356	178,392
Durable goods industries, total.....	59,432	58,730	59,299	59,092	60,172	60,978	174,027	171,690	169,642	171,997	171,627	169,823
Nondurable goods industries, total.....	52,157	52,895	52,628	51,817	53,230	53,973	8,258	8,478	8,463	8,542	8,729	8,569
Industry groups arranged by market categories:												
Home goods and apparel.....	8,641	8,377	8,273	8,255	8,313	8,656	3,533	3,445	3,370	3,486	3,338	3,247
Consumer staples.....	18,774	19,514	19,316	18,425	19,127	19,586						
Equipment and defense products, except automotive.....	16,087	16,396	14,649	15,271	16,414	15,350	104,079	102,991	101,057	102,278	102,262	100,896
Automotive equipment.....	11,096	11,627	12,413	11,815	11,947	12,517						
Construction materials, supplies, and intermediate products.....	9,538	9,545	9,706	10,083	9,845	9,722	18,224	18,102	18,040	18,161	18,043	17,987
Other materials and supplies and intermediate products.....	47,453	46,166	47,570	47,060	47,756	49,120	56,449	55,630	55,638	56,614	56,713	56,262
Supplementary series:[2]												
Household durable goods industries.....	3,528	3,443	3,425	3,531	3,401	3,549	2,858	2,761	2,692	2,809	2,648	2,569
Capital goods industries.....	18,300	18,503	16,946	17,131	18,396	17,470	113,000	111,767	110,058	111,197	111,296	109,971
Nondefense.....	14,935	14,932	14,667	14,740	15,338	15,344	80,768	80,255	79,647	80,261	80,142	79,389
Defense*.....	3,365	3,571	2,279	2,391	3,058	2,126	32,232	31,512	30,411	30,936	31,154	30,582

*During 1968 manufacturers in ordnance, communications, aircraft and aircraft parts, and shipbuilding industries began to provide aggregate figures on shipments, orders, and total inventories of work performed for the Department of Defense. The results of these reports are included in the defense series. pPreliminary. rRevised. [1]Shipments and new orders adjusted for trading-day and calendar-month variations; unfilled orders and inventories as of end of month. [2]The supplementary series are regroupings of the separate industry categories as follows:

Household durable goods industries - Household furniture; kitchen articles and pottery; cutlery, handtools, and hardware; household appliances; ophthalmic goods, watches, and clocks, watchcases; and miscellaneous personal goods.

Capital goods industries - The capital goods industries series is comparable to the previous Producers' Capital Goods and the Defense Products (old series) categories.

Nondefense industries - Machinery, except electrical (excluding farm machinery and equipment and machine shops), electrical machinery (excluding household appliances and electronic components), railroad equipment and the nondefense portions of shipbuilding and military tank vehicles, communication equipment, aircraft, aircraft parts and ordnance.

Defense products (new series) - Based on separate reports on defense work filed by large defense contractors in the following industries: ordnance, communications, complete aircraft, aircraft parts, and shipbuilding and military tank vehicles. The data are comparable to those published annually in the MA-175, Shipments of Defense-Oriented Industries, for the specified industries.

Table 3.--MANUFACTURERS' SHIPMENTS, INVENTORIES, AND ORDERS MONTH-TO-MONTH AND LONG TERM PERCENT CHANGES

(Based on seasonally adjusted data)

Item and industry group	Month-to-month			Average monthly rates of change				Average, 1971-1976	
				3 months			12 months		
	Apr.-May 1977	Mar.-Apr. 1977	Feb.-Mar. 1977	Feb.-May 1977	Nov. 1976-Feb. 1977	Aug.-Nov. 1976	May 1976-May 1977	Average rise	Average decline
Shipments:									
All manufacturing industries.....	-0.1	-1.7	+5.0	+1.1	+2.0	+0.4	+0.9	+1.5	-1.1
Durable goods industries, total.....	+0.7	-4.0	+7.9	+1.5	+2.2	-0.1	+1.1	+1.8	-1.5
Nondurable goods industries, total.....	-0.9	+0.9	+1.9	+0.6	+1.8	+0.9	+0.8	+1.6	-1.1
Total inventories:									
All manufacturing industries.....	+1.2	+0.8	+0.6	+0.9	+0.3	+0.8	+0.7	+1.0	-0.4
New orders:									
All manufacturing industries.....	-0.0	-0.3	+5.0	+1.6	+1.9	+1.1	+1.0	+1.9	-1.7
Durable goods industries, total.....	+1.2	-1.0	+7.5	+2.6	+1.8	+1.3	+1.3	+3.1	-2.1
Nondurable goods industries, total.....	-1.4	+0.5	+2.3	+0.5	+2.0	+1.0	+0.8	+1.8	-1.1
Unfilled orders:									
Durable goods industries, total.....	+1.4	+1.2	+0.1	+0.9	+0.8	+0.6	+0.5	+1.2	-2.7

Table 4.--VALUE OF MANUFACTURERS' INVENTORIES, BY STAGE OF FABRICATION, BY INDUSTRY GROUP

(Millions of dollars)

Industry group	Seasonally adjusted			Without seasonal adjustment			Seasonally adjusted			Without seasonal adjustment		
	May 1977[p]	Apr. 1977[r]	Mar. 1977	May 1977[p]	Apr. 1977[r]	Mar. 1977	May 1977[p]	Apr. 1977[r]	Mar. 1977	May 1977[p]	Apr. 1977[r]	Mar. 1977
	Total						Materials and supplies					
All manufacturing industries, total..	172,809	170,747	169,379	173,274	171,886	170,818	63,386	62,568	62,203	62,689	62,472	62,259
Durable goods industries, total.....	109,226	108,190	107,685	110,002	109,218	108,726	36,209	35,758	35,798	35,827	35,571	35,534
Stone, clay, and glass products.....	4,257	4,193	4,142	4,356	4,341	4,260	1,492	1,485	1,471	1,497	1,498	1,483
Primary metals.....	17,567	17,332	17,323	17,598	17,455	17,414	8,250	8,300	8,354	8,140	8,140	8,131
Machinery (electrical and nonelectrical).	39,595	39,217	39,064	40,132	39,697	39,470	11,009	10,865	10,985	11,088	10,972	11,014
Tansportation equipment.....	19,869	19,594	19,428	19,640	19,601	19,630	4,988	4,801	4,815	4,825	4,757	4,855
All other durable goods industries.....	27,938	27,854	27,728	28,276	28,124	27,952	10,470	10,307	10,173	10,277	10,204	10,051
Nondurable goods industries, total.....	63,583	62,557	61,694	63,272	62,668	62,092	27,177	26,810	26,405	26,862	26,901	26,725
Chemicals and allied products.....	13,201	13,038	12,962	13,165	13,138	13,204	5,384	5,323	5,261	5,338	5,307	5,299
Petroleum and coal products.....	5,508	5,252	5,156	5,486	5,198	5,012	1,923	1,895	1,947	1,975	1,929	1,899
Rubber and plastics products, n.e.c.....	4,096	4,016	4,079	4,120	4,102	4,126	1,511	1,472	1,503	1,521	1,501	1,516
All other nondurable goods industries....	40,778	40,251	39,497	40,501	40,230	39,750	18,359	18,120	17,694	18,028	18,164	18,011
	Work in process						Finished goods					
All manufacturing industries, total..	53,365	53,184	52,699	53,668	53,539	53,189	56,058	54,995	54,477	56,917	55,875	55,370
Durable goods industries, total.....	43,957	43,805	43,343	44,211	44,181	43,875	29,060	28,627	28,544	29,964	29,466	29,317
Stone, clay, and glass products.....	662	643	645	690	700	697	2,103	2,065	2,026	2,169	2,143	2,080
Primary metals.....	5,784	5,651	5,743	5,869	5,832	5,873	3,533	3,381	3,226	3,589	3,483	3,410
Machinery (electrical and nonelectrical).	17,025	17,003	16,660	17,133	17,068	16,792	11,561	11,349	11,419	11,911	11,657	11,664
Transportation equipment.....	12,443	12,364	12,188	12,359	12,388	12,313	2,438	2,429	2,425	2,456	2,456	2,462
All other durable goods industries.....	8,043	8,144	8,107	8,160	8,193	8,200	9,425	9,403	9,448	9,839	9,727	9,701
Nondurable goods industries, total.....	9,408	9,379	9,356	9,457	9,358	9,314	26,998	26,368	25,933	26,953	26,409	26,053
Chemicals and allied products.....	2,237	2,188	2,195	2,260	2,225	2,248	5,580	5,527	5,506	5,567	5,606	5,657
Petroleum and coal products.....	1,165	1,135	1,120	1,195	1,128	1,082	2,420	2,222	2,089	2,316	2,141	2,031
Rubber and plastics products, n.e.c.....	699	685	700	700	706	718	1,886	1,859	1,876	1,899	1,895	1,892
All other nondurable goods industries....	5,307	5,371	5,341	5,302	5,299	5,266	17,112	16,760	16,462	17,171	16,767	16,473

[p]Preliminary.
[r]Revised.

Table 5.--RATIO OF MANUFACTURERS INVENTORIES TO SHIPMENTS AND UNFILLED ORDERS TO SHIPMENTS, BY INDUSTRY GROUP

(Based on seasonally adjusted data

Industry group	Inventories - shipments ratio				Unfilled orders - shipments ratio[1] (months' backlog)			
	May 1977[p]	Apr. 1977[r]	Mar. 1977	Feb. 1977	May 1977[p]	Apr. 1977[r]	Mar. 1977	Feb. 1977
All manufacturing industries, total	1.58	1.56	1.52	1.59	3.22	3.21	3.47	3.29
Durable goods industries, total	1.91	1.91	1.82	1.96	3.87	3.87	3.69	3.96
Stone, clay, and glass products	1.49	1.48	1.39	1.53	0.95	0.95	0.88	0.92
Primary metals	2.08	2.17	2.03	2.28	2.10	2.11	2.01	2.25
Fabricated metals	1.85	1.81	1.72	1.88	3.58	3.49	3.36	3.64
Machinery, except electrical	2.41	2.42	2.42	2.46	4.80	4.78	4.81	4.98
Electrical machinery	2.29	2.22	2.20	2.19	3.71	3.58	3.53	3.63
Transportation equipment	1.48	1.48	1.35	1.53	8.41	8.81	7.91	8.71
Instruments and related products	2.04	2.03	2.02	2.08	1.67	1.68	1.64	1.63
Nondurable goods industries, total	1.21	1.18	1.18	1.19	0.71	0.72	0.73	0.73
Food and kindred products	1.11	1.05	1.04	1.05	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Tobacco products	5.03	4.88	4.72	5.00	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Textile mill products	1.55	1.51	1.53	1.60	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Paper and allied products	1.19	1.16	1.17	1.19	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Chemicals and allied products	1.43	1.38	1.34	1.42	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Petroleum and coal products	0.68	0.67	0.67	0.65	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Rubber and plastics products, n.e.c.	1.34	1.34	1.31	1.32	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)

NA Not available. [p]Preliminary. [r]Revised. (X) Not applicable.

[1]Excludes the following industries with no unfilled orders: Wood and lumber products; glass containers; metal cans, barrels and drums; motor vehicles assembly operations; foods and related products; tobacco; apparel and related products; chemicals; petroleum and coal products; and rubber and plastics products, n.e.c.

1975 INVENTORY VALUATION

The Bureau of the Census has conducted an annual survey to determine the accounting methods used to value the inventories reported in the monthly manufacturers' shipments, inventories, and orders survey. Using inventories reported in the December 1975 report as the point of reference, companies valuing inventories on a cost basis were asked to report the percentage of inventories valued by (1) first-in, first-out (FIFO); (2) specific or actual cost; (3) last-in, last-out (LIFO); (4) standard cost; (5) average cost; and (6) other methods. Companies valuing inventories on a market value basis were asked to report the percentage of total inventories according to: (1) market used for valuation because market lower than cost; (2) market always used for valuation; and (3) other methods. Companies declaring their basis for valuation to be the lower of cost or market were asked to distribute all of their inventories among the six cost and three market categories.

The estimates shown below were developed by allocating the reported total inventory figure for December 1975 to the nine valuation categories based on the reported percentages for individual respondents. These allocated values were then used to estimate the 78 industry categories which were further aggregated to 2-digit SIC totals and then converted again to percentages. No adjustments have been made for changes in valuation methods after December 1975. The classification of reporting units into industries was based on the 1967 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC). There are some significant differences between the 1967 SIC and the 1972 SIC (which is currently used for the monthly published estimates of shipments, inventories, and orders). The relation between the 1967 SIC and the 1972 SIC is shown in the Appendix tables of the M3-1.6 benchmark publication released December 1976.

This survey was designed and conducted to provide the distribution of valuation methods used for reporting in this survey. The distribution in the following table may differ significantly from a distribution based on financial reporting since the reporting in the monthly survey is often based on interim accounting methods. For example, a company whose public financial statements are based on LIFO may use standard cost or FIFO for interim accounting and convert the interim figures to LIFO only at the end of the fiscal period. In such cases, the interim valuation method would be reported in this survey. This distribution of valuation methods may also differ significantly from the distribution of valuation methods used at the establishment level for reporting in the census of manufactures and the annual survey of manufactures.

A survey relating to inventories reported in December 1976 is currently being conducted. The results of this survey, which will be based on the 1972 SIC will be published later this year. In the publication of the 1976 data, the results of the 1975 survey will be shown on the 1972 SIC.

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF INVENTORY VALUATION METHOD USED IN THE MANUFACTURERS' SHIPMENTS, INVENTORIES, AND ORDERS SURVEY: DECEMBER 1975

Old (1967) SIC industry group	Method of inventory valuation								
	FIFO	LIFO	Average cost	Actual cost	Standard cost	Other	Market lower than cost	Market always	Other
All manufacturing	29	33	20	7	9	-	1	1	-
Durable	29	32	21	9	9	-	-	-	-
Stone, clay and glass[1]	23	36	20	-	21	-	-	-	-
Primary metals	12	71	13	-	4	-	-	-	-
Fabricated metal products[1]	36	38	4	7	14	-	-	1	-
Machinery, except electrical	30	34	22	2	12	-	-	-	-
Electrical machinery	41	33	5	9	11	-	1	-	-
Transportation equipment	32	5	38	20	5	-	-	-	-
Instruments and related products[1]	44	23	7	6	20	-	-	-	-
All other durable[1]	33	29	25	3	9	-	1	-	-
Nondurable	29	6	20	4	9	-	1	1	-
Food and kindred products	37	18	24	8	5	-	2	4	2
Tobacco manufactures	5	44	44	6	1	-	-	-	-
Textile mill products	28	31	13	3	24	-	1	-	-
Paper and allied products	34	28	23	3	11	-	1	-	-
Chemicals	35	42	8	-	15	-	-	-	-
Petroleum and coal products	9	61	26	1	3	-		-	-
Rubber and plastic products	23	61	10	4	2	-	-	-	-
All other nondurable[1]	55	17	5	4	17	-	2	-	-

- Represents zero.
[1]Estimates made for non-response accounts for more than 50 percent of the estimates in these industries.

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